



The Office of Air Quality (OAQ) works to safeguard the quality of Indiana's air by implementing the requirements of the Clean Air Act, developing state rules governing air quality standards, evaluating and issuing permits for construction and operation, conducting inspections and other compliance activities and monitoring Indiana's air quality.

Urban Air Toxics Monitoring Sites and Data on the Web

IDEM established and maintained air quality monitors in four urban areas (Evansville, Elkhart, Indianapolis and northern Lake County) to monitor for 87 specific air contaminants. To help citizens access information from these monitors, OAQ established the TOX Watch Web site. Air quality data are posted on the site as well as information about the health impacts of the compounds being reported. This monitoring network is providing information about the quality of the air that Hoosiers breathe where they live, work and play.



www.state.in.us/idem/oam/toxwatch/index.htm

Air Permits

Permits Issued:

- ▶ 120 Title V Air Operating Permits
- ▶ 154 Significant New Source Review Permits

Permits Issued on Time:

- ▶ 100 percent

www.state.in.us/idem/oam/permits/index.html

IDEM's actions against the Academy for Environmental Training resulted in the closure of the facility. OAQ provided retraining, free of charge, to those 144 students who failed the test to assure that they can safely work in the asbestos abatement and removal field. OAQ also worked to make the asbestos-lead program bilingual by hiring bilingual staff and approving training courses to be taught in Spanish.

Closure of Academy for Environmental Training

IDEM brought suit against the Academy for Environmental Training, a provider of asbestos training courses in Indianapolis. The academy taught classes in English to students who did not speak English. Answers were provided for the final test so students could receive a passing grade and obtain their asbestos license from the state. IDEM tested more than 200 students who had taken an academy class in the past three years. With the test given in the language of their choice, 144 students failed the test.

Fine Particulate Monitoring Network

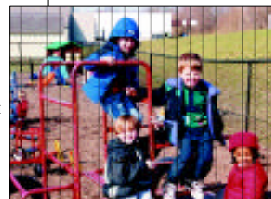
Fine particulate pollution in our nation's air is a growing concern with the U.S. EPA and IDEM. The U.S. EPA has set a new air quality standard for fine particulate pollution. IDEM established 40 sites around the state to monitor the amounts of fine particulate in a given area. The data collected at these sites allows Indiana to determine which, if any, areas of the state are not in compliance with U.S. EPA's new air quality health standard for fine particulate.

Ozone Planning and Outreach

IDEM completed one-hour ozone attainment demonstration plans for Clark, Floyd, Lake and Porter counties that will assure healthy air for Indiana residents in those areas. OAQ has been working with major industrial sources, electric utilities and the public on a plan to substantially reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, a major contributor to smog, throughout the state.

Lead Paint Abatement Program

Many older homes contain lead-based paints that can pose serious health threats to young children. Lead particles in paint dust and chips are easily transferred from hand to mouth and may cause permanent damage to sight, hearing and motor skills of children. IDEM received approval from the U.S. EPA to implement a program setting standards for training and licensing of lead paint abatement workers, assessors and supervisors. The program assures that lead paint abatement activities will be conducted safely and that wastes will be disposed of properly.



Free Gas Cap Program

On average, 2,700 cars in Lake and Porter counties fail their biennial vehicle emissions test because of a leaking gas cap. In partnership with BP Amoco and Indiana's Clean Air Car Check Program, OAQ provides free replacement gas caps to motorists who fail the emissions test. This program provides cleaner air sooner and is a major convenience to motorists.



Medical Waste Incinerator Requirements

OAQ adopted and is implementing rules requiring hospitals that incinerate medical waste on site to meet tougher environmental standards. The new rule for hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators applied to 39 Indiana incinerators. Thirty-one of the affected incinerators chose to shutdown by March 11, 2000. Eight others are in the process of installing pollution control devices to meet the emission limits by 2002.



The following counties have been removed from U.S. EPA's nonattainment list for air pollution:

- ▶ Lead _____ Marion County
- ▶ Carbon Monoxide _____ Marion and Lake counties

All Indiana counties are in compliance with the health standards for these two pollutants.